

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 996

By Jones S

A RESOLUTION urging the department of health to ensure that children in Tennessee receive the influenza vaccine.

WHEREAS, studies have shown that young children, even healthy children, are more likely than older children to end up in the hospital with serious complications if they get influenza; and

WHEREAS, the main way that influenza is spread is from person to person through coughs and sneezes; and

WHEREAS, hospitalization rates in infants are comparable to hospitalization rates in the elderly; and

WHEREAS, vaccination against the influenza virus each year remains the primary way to prevent this disease. Vaccination, along with other measures, also may help to decrease the spread of influenza among children in the childcare setting and among care providers; and

WHEREAS, the Center for Disease Control has created the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) and tasked this advisory committee with making recommendations for the priority of populations to receive the vaccine; and

WHEREAS, the ACIP continues to review new vaccination strategies for improving the prevention and control of influenza; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that it is the sense of this General Assembly that the department of health is encouraged to do everything in its power to be sure that Tennessee children receive the influenza vaccine according to the ACIP recommendations.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the department of health is encouraged to provide increased education to parents and care providers for children of the importance of the influenza vaccine, including information on the availability of the vaccine which is unpreserved or with only trace amounts of thimerisol.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the department of health is encouraged to consider promulgation of necessary rules requiring that children in licensed daycare must be immunized on an annual basis against influenza, including information about the vaccine that is available thimerisol-free or with only trace amounts of thimerisol, between September 1 and November 1, in accordance with the ACIP recommendations.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be transmitted to the commissioner of the department of health.